

Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Interior Minister Kadoyi on Rwandan Refugees

EA1110225590 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French 0420 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Refugees from Rwanda are pushing to get in through Burundi's northern border. A refugee reception center opened its doors in (Rehenga), Busoni commune, Kirundo Province as early as the night of 9 October yesterday. Ninety-six refugees have crossed the Kirundo border since the beginning of the events in Rwanda on 1 October. They have already been resettled. Here is a report by (Diondesenga), the BURUNDI NEWS AGENCY [ABP] Kirundo correspondent.

[Begin (Diondesenga) recording] With the passing days, these refugees arrive one by one and sometimes in families. Some of them come with their cows, now reaching a total of 350 head of cattle. Three refugees entered via the Kanyaru River in Ntega commune. Eight others also crossed the Kanyaru River, but came through the Bugabira commune, while the rest - 85 Rwandan refugees—entered by road through the Busoni commune with 350 head of cattle. All these refugees were given the hospitality characteristic of Burundian families, while in the meantime the Kirundo provincial authorities were working on reception infrastructures. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that Rwandan refugees continue to arrive in Kirundo Province. (Diondesenga), ABP-Kirundo, from Ngozi. [end recording]

There is no doubt that Burundi will have difficulties in meeting the refugees' needs, given that the country cannot reject them, in accordance with international conventions and humanitarian actions. Here is the opinion of the Burundi interior minister, Lieutenant Colonel Aloys Kadoyi, speaking into the microphone of (Karenga Ramadani).

[Begin Kadoyi recording] I can tell you that Burundi, as it is, is very small. It already has a great number of refugees, and we will have difficulty in finding suitable conditions for them. But we cannot close our doors to them [words indistnct] we are obliged to protect the refugees falling on us. We will give them the conditions we have and, of course, if we could prevent them from coming—that is to say if these problems did not exist in Rwanda, that the Rwandan (?authorities) find solutions and as a result no refugee arrives in our country—it would be a good thing. [sentence as heard] Otherwise, if we are obliged to host them, we will talk, we will agree with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees—which acts for the protection of refugees—on the reception conditions. [end recording]

Congo

Troops, Police in Pointe-Noire To Maintain Order
AB1110165090 Paris AFP in English 1626 GMT
11 Oct 90

[Text] Brazzaville, Oct 11 (AFP)—Troops joined police in Congo's economic capital Pointe-Noire to maintain order on Thursday [11 Oct] after West African-owned stores were sacked the previous day by striking municipal and transport workers. Students armed with stones joined in the pillage, and vehicles were overturned and damaged, witnesses reported. Informed sources said several foreign firms in Pointe Noire, the hub of Congo's oil industry, had apparently evacuated the families of staff for fear of further unrest.

The oil town had already been hit last week by strikes for 50 percent pay rises by workers with the French and Italian oil companies ELF and Agip, and the Congolese rail and river transport authority's 8,000 staff. Workers at another oil concern, Hydro-Congo, came out on strike here in the administrative capital on Thursday, causing the closure of several petrol stations. They were protesting against government plans decided in February to restructure the company by hiving off extraction and distribution to six new firms, which would mean more than half of Hydro's 1,400 workers being sacked.

Negotiations on the matter have been going on all week between the mines ministry and the mining and oil trade union. The cabinet met on Wednesday and said the "wave of agitation" was the work of "non-union forces." Trouble has spiralled since the government began enacting an economic recovery package worked out by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It entails privatisation of some state enterprises, the abolition of others, and widespread cuts in staff. Trade union opposition in the past few weeks has forced the authorities to delay or even cancel some of the measures.

Rwanda

President Says Second Group Invaded 7 October EA1110124990 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Yesterday afternoon the president of the Republic received in Urugwiro village [state lodge, 5 km from Kigali] representatives of the national and international press covering the current crisis. He opened the news conference with the following information: a second contingent of assailants crossed the Uganda-Rwanda border last Sunday [7 Oct].

General Habyarimana has also been given assurances from other neighbouring countries that Rwanda will not be attacked from their respective authorities, contrary to what happened with Uganda. He obtained these assurances on Monday and Tuesday during his two lightning visits to Zaire and Tanzania, while on the Burundi side, President Habyarimana will receive very soon a special envoy of his counterpart, Pierre Buyoya. [passage omitted]

Insurgents Recapture Gabiro Military Camp AB1110133690 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Kigali, Oct 11 (AFP)—Rebels on Thursday [11 Oct] recaptured a military camp at Gabiro in the northeast of Rwanda after government forces seized it from the insurgents Wednesday, a military source said here.

The source said government forces withdrew from the camp to spend the night out of Gabiro for tactical reasons. Gabiro is surrounded by hills and vulnerable to attack.

Government forces and rebels meanwhile fought a fierce battle between the localities of Nyagatare and Ngarama, in the Muvumba river valley, on Wednesday, a source close to the defence ministry said Thursday.

The rebels, composed of Rwandan exiles in Uganda and led by Commander Fred Rwigyema, former deputy head of the Ugandan army, invaded the central African country on October 1.

Zairian DSP Force Disperses Rebels in North

EA1110125890 Lubumbashi Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] The Zairian troops who were sent to Rwanda have performed very well in the field, where they are fighting alongside Rwandan soldiers to drive the invaders from Uganda out of the country. We have learned that the Zairian troops have scattered a group of rebels in the north of the country who were retreating after being unable to confront the Zairian Special Presidential Division [DSP] elements.

Five hundred members of the DSP were sent to Rwanda at the Rwandan head of state's request, while 500 others belonging to the 30th Airborne Brigade are being made ready to join them at any time.

Refugees Cross Into Uganda, Claim Massacres EA1110170090 Nairobi KNA in English 1130 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Kampala, 11 October (PANA)—About 500 Rwandese have crossed into southwestern Uganda claiming that they had fled from Rwandese Government soldiers who had allegedly massacred hundreds of people in border areas of Ngarama in the northeast part of the country, the official UNA [UGANDA NEWS AGENCY] reported. They could not estimate the death toll but said the whole area was littered with dead bodies.

The refugees, who included men, women, and children, are being camped at the border village of Kizinga, 20 kilometres off Mbarara-Kabale road. When a correspondent of the government daily "NEW VISION" visited them Wednesday [10 Oct], the exhausted refugees said they had crossed into Uganda Tuesday afternoon after walking for over 10 hours. By Wednesday afternoon the refugees were still unsheltered, and their only source of food was the NRA [National Resistance Army] soldiers guarding the area who

were sharing their rations of maize flour and beans with them. The officer commanding the border unit at Kizinga, Captain Simon Kizza expressed concern about the increasing number of refugees, saying proper arrangements have not been made to ensure their well-being.

The refugees said it all started Saturday when a military helicopter gunship landed at Muvumba village carrying government soldiers who talked to the predominantly Hutu people living in the area. On Monday, they said, government troops in army trucks, accompanied by a gang of civilians armed with pangas, hoes, and spears, stormed and massacred people in Ngarama, Kachiraje, Chonyo, Bushoga, and Mihungo villages, where huts were reportedly set on fire.

'Kigali' Denies Massacre Of 1,000 Civilians

EA1110170690 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0500 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] In Rwanda, reinforcements of rebel troops are reported in the north of the country. The government army continues its offensive to drive the invaders out of the national territory. Besides that, Kigali has just denied the massacre of about 1,000 civilians since the beginning of the aggression. The accusation comes from the opposition which [word indistinct] that the government army had [words indistinct]. Mr. Yoweri Museveni, the Ugandan head of state and current OAU chairman, [words indistinct].

Defense Ministry Communique Updates Situation EA1110214890 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 11 Oct 90

["Communique" from the Ministry of National Defence]

[Excerpt] Following the attack by inkotanyi [fierce fighters] rebels in Mutara on 1 October, and in Kigali in the night of 4 October, the situation is calm all over the national territory, except in the Mutara region, where fighting continues. The Rwandan Armed Forces continue tracking down the enemies to dislodge them from all their entrenchments.

In the last 24 hours, rebels who are partly dressed in civilian clothes in order to hide among the population have been dislodged from Muvumba, (Imimuli) and Gabiro, leaving hundreds of dead and many arms, including heavy weapons.

The Rwandan Armed Forces are determined to destroy the enemy definitively. The people's contribution remains precious. That is why the population is requested to continue denouncing before the Rwandan Armed Forces and administrative authorities all those rebel elements which have infiltrated. [passage omitted]

Minister Meets Diplomats on Alleged Massacres EA1110223890 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Urged by the governments and organizations they represent, the heads of diplomatic missions and

representatives of international organizations in Kigali today held a meeting with Dr. Casimir Bizimungu, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, to discuss respect for human rights in this critical period our country is experiencing.

Today's meeting is the second of its kind following the one held last Monday [18 Oct] at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Kigali agreed to meet twice a week to follow the progress of the situation in our country since the 1 October attack in the northeast of the country.

Today's meeting discussed three main elements: first, the truth about the massacres of civilians by the Rwandan Army in Mutara; second, visits by diplomats to prisoners on humanitarian grounds; and third, the freedom of movement for expatriates in the national territory.

The allegations of massacres of civilians have abounded in the international press for two days now. This is nothing, however, but a false allegation, according to the explanation of Minister Casimir Bizimungu. In effect, immediately after the attack by the maquis in the northeast, the people of the Mutara ranches fled and the maquis invaded the ranches. But that was not all. The enemies soon dressed themselves in civilian clothes, a technique which has become typical of them.

The fighting which therefore took place in the Mutara ranches pitted Rwandan soldiers against the National Resistance Army deserters dressed in civilian clothes, and therein lay the confusion. The few hundred killed are actually and without a doubt rebels, and not Rwandan civilians as international opinion was made to believe.

Another item discussed by the diplomats and the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation concerns consular visits to prisoners on humanitarian grounds. A commission of heads of diplomatic missions was formed which will visit prisons as from next Monday [15 Oct] and convey their observations to other diplomats. The commission is made up of the Apostolic Nuncio, the Burundi ambassador to Rwanda, the FRG ambassador and the International Red Cross representative.

Visits to those summoned and arrested have not so far been possible, because the Ministry of Justice felt that it first had to clear structures resulting from the last papal visit before they could (?intern) some 3,000 summoned or arrested people. They therefore had to wait for the clearing of this mess, so (?after) this week they can visit the prisoners at the beginning of next week.

The diplomats and the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation also discussed the problem of passage at the borders and movement inside the country, in short the freedom of movement which expatriates must enjoy. The minister of interior and community development felt that there is no reason to deprive people of their freedom of movement and he sent a

message to prefects urging them to facilitate the task of expatriates working in their prefectures.

The prefect of Kigali town, for his part, is amenable to issuing a permit for movement valid beyond one day, and the Security Council will meet soon to (?draft) the document on [word indistinct] of movement, while taking into account national security.

The Kigali prefect also promised that a document on directives will follow during this period. The document will be released tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Troops Said Preparing Attack on Rebel-Held Camp AB1110211590 Paris AFP in English 2046 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Kigali, Oct 11 (AFP)—A detachment of an expeditionary force sent into Rwanda by Zaire was apparently preparing late Thursday [11 Oct] to attack a rebel-held military camp at Gabiro in the northeast of the country, witnesses said. But there had been no fighting at Gabiro during the day Thursday, contrary to a statement by the Rwandan Government army command, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE photographer who went to the scene said.

The army command said earlier in the day that the Rwandan Army had been fighting since the morning to recapture Gabiro, which is on the road to the Ugandan border, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) away. The AFP phtotographer said that the position of the Zairian detachment, which Thursday morning was 10 kilometres (six miles) from Gabiro, constituted the front line in fighting between Rwandan Government and rebel forces. During the day, the detachment had been able to move to within a kilometre and a half (about one mile) from Gabiro after fanning out and meeting no resistance.

Official sources said that the rebels took Gabiro Wednesday night because the government soldiers had decided not to spend the night there. Zaire's president, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, has sent an expeditionary force of 500 of his crack troops into Rwanda to help the regime of his neighbor, Major-Ceneral Juvenal Habyarimana, resist rebels who entered the country from Uganda at the beginning of the month.

Further on Fighting Around Gabiro, Ngarama

EA1110201090 Kigali Domestic in Kinyarwanda 1700 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Our country's Armed Forces are still fighting the enemies who invaded our country on the first of this month. Our colleague Florin Kampayana reports from Byumba on the situation in the Ngarama area.

[Begin Kampayana recording] After our Armed Forces captured the Gabiro camp [words indistinct], the National Armed Forces are now engaged in tracking down the enemies where the latter are still hiding, while at the same time encircling or repulsing other rebel invaders. Yesterday, our soldiers managed to repulse an attack by the enemies of Rwanda who wanted to capture

Ngarama and chased them up the small center of (Imimuli), which is 20 km from Ngarama, which the rebels had transformed into their base. The Rwandan Armed Forces fought them thoroughly, such that the enemies of Rwanda lost a countless number of their men, leaving behind a lot of arms, as we were informed. In fact, it is reported that the leader of the attack, who held the rank of captain, fell into our soldier's trap.

Meanwhile, the offices of the Muvumba commune which they had captured were recaptured by the Rwandans, who are continuing to hunt down the enemies and their sympathizers, on whom the people are giving hints to the Armed Forces.

Away from the war areas, people continue with their ordinary activities while others are helping communal and sector leaders to restore peace, searching for the

enemies who may be hiding in their midst. Florin Kampayana, from Byumba. [end recording]

There must be a large number of them because about 26 weapons, including a heavy anti-aircraft gun, were captured in the fighting.

Selection Commission Chairman Releases Detainees EA1210123090 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] According to the chairman of the commission in charge of selection [of suspects among those detained], the prosecutor at the Court of Appeals in Kigali, Mr. (Mbuyitawa), after three days, said (?1,190) detainees have been released after identification and after assurances had been received from councillors and members of cell committees whom they used as references. The selection operations continue.

Kenya

Arrested Politician Backed by Foreign Countries

EA1110154090 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 10 Oct 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Self-exiled Nakuru politician Koigi wa Wamwere and four other prominent people have been arrested in Nairobi while allegedly planning to execute acts of sabotage and being in possession of weapons, a government statement disclosed yesterday. The statement said Wamwere and his colleagues were stressed on Monday [8 Oct] morning and immediately put in custody. A reliable police source said they were arrested in Kariobangi area at 5.30 am. [passage omitted]

Reliable government sources said last night the Wamwere group had backing from a neighbouring country, which had promised them help. "There are people who are ready to do something chaister to the country and it is good our security forces moved in at the right moment," he [as published] said.

The source also indicated that the plan to hit the country was timed as in the case of Rwanda, where rebels were fighting the government. The rebels are reported to have started their offensive from Uganda.

People who were allegedly helping Wamwere and his accomplices are from two neighbouring countries.

Police recovered, during the operation, 10 automatic weapons, among them AK-47 rifles, grenades, and three other weapons.

Wamwere, a two-time detainee and former MP for Nakuru north, had been in exile in Norway, where he was granted political asylum together with his family in 1986.

The government statement yesterday did not indicate when Warnwere and his accomplices arrived in the country.

He was first detained in September 1975 and released in December 1978. His wife, Nduta, told the press in 1986 Wamwere left the country on 17 January of that year ostensibly to travel to the U.S.A. where his book was due to be published. But in September 1986 he was granted political asylum in Norway and his family joined him there in the following year.

In February 1987, Mr. Jeremiah Nyagah, who was then minister for environment and natural resources, asked Wamwere to return following a presidential amnesty to exiles. In 1988, Wamwere, was quoted in the daily press as saying he was a member of a clandestine movement and not Mwakenya. It was later said he belonged to

Kenya Patriotic Front [KPF], whose motive was to overthrow the Kenya Government.

An affidavit was sent to a local daily by Wamwere listing the aims and objectives of KPF and how they were to be realised. And last year, Wamwere was also quoted as saying he was not remorseful over anything, adding that he had committed no crime to warrant making an apology. At the same time, he said he would return to Kenya one day.

Yesterday, the government statement did not indicate whether Wamwere and his accomplices would appear in court or not.

Somalia

SRSP Meets on New Chairman, Constitution

EA1110212490 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] The members of the Political Bureau of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP] today held an extraordinary meeting at the Presidency. Items discussed at the meeting, which was chaired by Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the SRSP secretary general, were the implementation of the new constitution, how the SRSP can participate in the implementation of the new constitution, and the general situation in the country. Taking into consideration the implementation of the new constitution, which limits the role of the president, the president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] is no longer able to take any responsibility other than that of the Presidency, and he therefore submitted a new chairman to the SRSP members. This move was in line with decentralizing the role of the SDR president.

The SRSP Political Bureau members accepted this.

Reports we have received from a special reporter accompanying the president added that after the working meeting, the council nominated Comrade Ahmed Suleiman Abdullah as the new chairman of the SRSP.

The SRSP Political Bureau members also approved the cancellation of the 21 October celeberations in view of the existing problems [word indistinct], especially in the Persian Gulf.

The SRSP further unanimously agreed to participate fully in the implementation of the new constitution and other national issues and to lend a hand in solving the existing problems in the country with regard to politics, the economy, social issues, and security. The council implored the Somali masses to help in the includementation of the new constitution and to find a solution to the country's problems.

Minister on Talks With ANC, Negotiations
MB1110153490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1519 GMT 13 Oct 90

(By Norman Patterton)

[Text] Pretoria Oct 11 SAPA—Constitutional Development Minister Dr. Gerrit Viljoen hopes multi-party discussions on the structure and functioning of a negotiation forum will get underway early next year.

Addressing a media briefing in Pretoria on Thursday [11 Oct], Dr. Viljoen said he had acquired "a new vision" in terms of which whites would become part of a majority alliance that would attract many African National Congress [ANC] supporters. The broad electorate could be convinced "there is no reason why we can't beat the ANC."

He confirmed President F.W. de Klerk would honour his undertaking that whites would be consulted, through a referendum, about constitutional changes. If they rejected them Mr. de Klerk would go back to the drawing board to start negotiating anew "because there is no other solution to a negotiated agreement."

Dr. Viljoen said the pre-negotiation process was about to be broadened to include all willing participants, and the government would not wait indefinitely for people to get on the train. "I think the train will have to start early next year, hopefully, if we can get enough passengers to agree. If there are some guys who are not on the train yet perhaps we should use helicopters to get them on board. If they are not on at the outset it does not mean that are going to be written off."

He said that it would be "an admission of failure" to continue negotiations without the ANC. There was no question of the government forming an alliance with the ANC, because the differences between the NP [National Party] and ANC were too fundamental.

The joint working group charged with defining issues surrounding the concept of the ANC ceasing its "armed actions" had however made "unsatisfactory progress," and the working group's final report was still being awaited.

Dr. Viljoen singled out for criticism recent remarks by Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation (MK)—ANC military wing] Chief of Staff Chris Han;—who heads the ANC section of the working group—an MK's continued membership drive.

Dr. Viljoen said the Pretoria Minute stated that no "related activities" to the suspension of armed actions should take place. He said: "related activities' surely must include the recruitment of people for training for armed action, and training and keeping them in camps and having ammunition stores and so on."

The trust Mr. de Klerk enjoyed made him a pivotal figure in the talks, but once a negotiating forum had been constituted it should decide who should lead it. The government would accept a "generally acceptable, neutral, objective" erson or persons" as chairman.

Dr. Viljoen said the government was not currently prepared to abdicate its powers, but was prepared to discuss structures and channels providing for parties to make inputs to government. When the government spoke about the "irreversibility" of its reform measures, it did not mean it would necessarily get a go-ahead from a referendum, but meant so much progress had been made that no alternative government would be able to negate the steps.

He said the government would continue to try to get the Azanian Peoples' Organisation to join the discussions, while the long delay in a response from the Pan-Africanist Congress was "encouraging" because it meant it was thoroughly considering the question of participation.

Dr. Viljoen said the best way to approach white rightwing groups' policies in a referendum debate would be to expose ("uitmekaar trek") their plans.

Any loss of support for the NP was ascribable to law and order issues. An improvement in the security scenario would bolster the NP's support in a referendum debate.

ANC Accuses Government of Breach of Faith MB1110160290 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1516 GMT 11 Oct 90

[By Guy Rogers]

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 11 SAPA—Claiming a serious breach of faith by the government, the ANC [African National Congress] has divulged extracts from its submission to the Monday [8 Oct] talks between it and the government.

According to African National Congress spokesman Sakkie Macozoma, there had been an agreement by both parties that the only details about the talks to be made public would be contained in a joint statement.

The government had reneged on this agreement by issuing a separate statement, he claimed. By doing so it had pre-emiced findings yet to be delivered by working groups investigating various issues at stake. This action was the latest in a series of events which were forcing the ANC "to question our generosity to the president."

Addressing reporters at congress headquarters in Johannesburg, Mr. Macozoma said: "Events of the past week have forced both Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress to call into question the integrity of F.W. de Klerk. De Klerk and the government's undermining of efforts to achieve a genuine peace settlement places the whole negotiations process in jeopardy."

ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela's submission called for a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate the violence wracking the country. Noting also the allegation that Inkatha members were being trained by the government security forces in the Caprivi Strip, Mr.

Mandela said: "a reluctance to subject such widespread allegations to impartial inquiry fuels a popular perception that there are forces close to you, Mr. President, with a double agenda."

There was also evidence accumulating "of a departure by the government from the letter and spirit of certain important aspects of both the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes," said Mr. Mandela. Referring to the Groote Schuur Minute, Mr. Mandela said it had been made clear then that the question of arms caches would not be an obstable to the granting of indemnity to ANC leaders.

The question of what would happen to those possessing arms after the October 30 cut-off date had been raised at the Pretoria Minute.

It was the president who had suggested that this matter be handled by the appropriate working group. If the arrest of Mr. Mac Maharaj, therefore, and the refusal to extend indemnity to him and Mr. Ronnie Kasrils was connected to the possession of arms—"this approach is in direct conflict with both the letter and spirit of our agreements... What purpose will be served by the debates within the working group... if in the interim we face harassment in this very area," Mr. Mandela demanded.

It could not be expected of the ANC that come what may, and whatever actions were taken against it, it would not abandon negotiations. "It should be plainly understood that if we ever, once again, face a situation in which all constitutional avenues for an advance to democracy are closed, we will have no option but to use other methods. If this is war talk then I too plead guilty."

Mr. Mandela said another serious example of double standards was that the Section 29 Detention Law (part of the Internal Security Act) was applied unfairly. Rightwing claims of detainees being tortured were investigated while the ANC [African National Congress] had long been claiming the same thing—in vain. Many rightwingers facing charges of terrorism were given bail whereas ANC members facing lesser charges were kept in custody.

"In the case of Maharaj my own undertaking that, if released on bail, he would not evade trial, was apparently not considered good enough," Mr. Mandela noted. The release on bail of Inkatha youth leader Themba Khoza was also queried. Denigration of the ANC by certain government members was putting a strain on the negotiating process. The "Iron Fist" measures taken by the government to curb the violence were also addressed.

"Perhaps if we had been taken more into confidence and given an opportunity of at least setting out our views on the measures, a more constructive atmosphere would have eventuated," said Mr. Mandela.

The violence had clearly served the strategy of the rightwing, which undoubtedly continued to have a strong presence in the security establishment. "They calculated correctly that the massacres would put the ANC into a most difficult position; either we had to organise retaliation and discredit

ourselves in the eyes of the government and the white constituency or fail to do so and discredit ourselves in the eyes of our own consituency," he said.

De Klerk Rejects Allegations

MB1110190090 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1805 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 11 SAPA—State President F.W. de Klerk on Thursday [11 Oct] night rejected allegations by the ANC [African National Congress] that the government had committed a breach of faith by releasing information about its meeting on Monday with the ANC.

At a hastily convened media conference at Jan Smuts Airport before his departure for Portugal and Britain, Mr. de Klerk said he heard the ANC had made public a document with many unfounded allegations which he had rejected at Monday's discussions. "I find it a pity that they have breached the agreement which was reached because they will now force us when we deem it approriate to publicly react and publicly reject the allegations contained in that statement."

Mr. de Klerk added, "It is important that we keep the negotiation process on track in South Africa, and I find it a pity that after three days suddenly there is criticism... and that a negative statement is made almost the moment when I am due to meet some heads of government during my overseas visit."

Mr. de Klerk said he had the impression that the ANC was under pressure and that it was starting to blame the government.

"We are not doing anything to put them under pressure."

The ANC was under pressure because:

—There was a "dualism" in how it approached the Pretoria Minute. He accepted the integrity of most ANC leaders and definitely Mr. Mandela, and their commitment to peaceful solutions. But some leaders interpreted the Minute in such a restrictive manner he could not agree with it.

"I think if they are under pressure they because of their own conflicting statements which the press is picking up, and the press is putting pressure on them in that regard." [sentence as received]

—And because of its adherence to policies, such as communism, that had "proved a dismal failure throughout the world."

But Mr. de Klerk added, "however unjust their statement is, we'll deal with it in a manner which can never negatively affect the negotiation process which is tender and which we are at the threshold of. I hope that the leadership of the ANC will also refrain from any act or statement which will unnecessarily endanger this and will make sure of their facts before they make an attack on the integrity of the government."

Mr. de Klerk said the ANC could have referred to only two possible instances when they spoke about a "breach of faith."

These were a statement on a cut-off date for political offences, and his speech in Port Elizabeth this week. He had fully informed the ANC beforehand about these two instances, and therefore totally disagreed that they constituted such a breach. Immediately after the press conference, Mr. de Klerk attended the induction by Judge President Moll of Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha as acting president. After the ceremony at the airport, Mr. de Klerk said Mr. Botha had served his country with distinction, and he and his wife Marike would leave on their visit "with the knowledge that the country is in good hands."

Mr. de Klerk said the main point of his visit would be to address 800 top young businesmen aboard the QEII [Queen Elizabeth II] ocean liner.

His meetings with Portuguse President Dr. Mario Soares and Prime Minister Dr. Cavaco Silva, and Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, were merely courtesy calls, although they would discuss political events.

One of the guests who attended the induction ceremony of Mr. Botha was South Africa's new roving ambassador, former SUNDAY TIMES editor Tertius Myburgh. Mr. and Mrs. de Klerk are due to return to South Africa on Monday.

NP Proposes Reduced Role for Central Government

MB1110111190 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 11 Oct 90 pp 1, 2

[Article by Mike Robertson: "Nats Are Proposing Drastically Reduced Powers for Central Government"]

[Text] The NP [National Party] is proposing a drastically reduced role for both the legislative and executive arms of central government—with restrictions even on Cabinent powers in vital areas such as security and taxation policy.

A clearer view of the NP's constitutional proposals had emerged from recent speeches by President F.W. de Klerk, Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viuljoen and the leaking of a Broederbond [Afrikaner brotherhood] document which provides detail on the future functioning of central government.

What is proposed in the Borederbond document corrsponds in almost every respect with the broad outlines of a future constitution advanced by Viljoen.

At the Cape NP Congress in Port Elizabeth earlier this week, Viljoen said the NP would argue in negotiations that ultimate power in a new SA [South Africa] be vested in a Supreme Court as in the U.S. and not in Parliament as SA was at present.

Such a Supreme Court, he said, would become a guardian and protector of the main constitution and would be empowered to test the validity of decisions taken by the legislature.

The NP would argue that in a new SA, individuals should be protected by a Bill of rights. In addition, minorities should receive protection from entreched clauses in the constitution.

The constitution, he said, should contain provisions that:

- -Prevented SA from becoming a one-party state;
- -Prevented a majority from changing the bill of rights;
- -Stipulated government should have a set lifespan;
- Prevented SA from becoming a communist dictatorship; and
- -Entrenched property rights.

In addition to these provisions—which he has mentioned in the past—Viljoen said the constitution should contain clauses stipulating how security forces should be managed and that it was the right of every SA citizen not to be excessively taxed.

The constitution should also contain provisions protecting entrepreneurs.

It was the first time the NP has suggested strategic executive functions like taxation and security policy be constrained by a constitution.

Addressing Provincial Administrators in Maritzburg last week, de Klerk indicated government favoured expanding powers of local and regional government to prevent any group from monopolising power at central government level.

A committee of inquiry into inter-governmental fiscal relations had indicated that under such a system, local government spending as a precentage of total state spending could grow from 10 percent to 46 percent. Regional spending could grow from 16 percent to 23 percent while central government spending would fall from its present 67 percent to 31 percent.

Read with Viljoen's call for a conditution that prohibits excessive taxation this would cut central government powers in economic decision making.

Viljoen also indicated at the Cape Congress while the NP was prepared to accept a legislature elected on a basis of one man, one vote on a common voters' roll, its powers would be offset by a second chamber in which representation would be decided on a regional and group basis.

He said the powers of the head of state would also be reduced. It was considering a collegiate system of rotating Presidents.

Alternatively, it would argue for counterbalancing system with a Prime Minister and a President. The latter would have responsibility for supervising the functioning of the constitution.

The Broederbond's draft constitution, which is understood to have been drawn up by officials in Viljoen's department, provides for one man, one vote elections on a common voters' roll for a 300-seat House of Representatives.

All Bills would have to be passed by a two-thirds majority in a Senate.

Groups could not be based on race but had to have a common language, culture or religion and more than 500,000 voters. At least 60 percent of these members would have to vote in a referendum in favour of being represented as a group to enable it to come into being.

If the Senate and House disagreed on a Bill, it would be passed to an advisory council to decide which version should be submitted to the President for signature.

During the Cape Congress, Walmer branch chairman Humphries du Randt complained that ordinary members of the NP had not been consulted about the Broederbond document. He said NP congresses were becoming a mere "rubber stamp" for proposals that originated "elsewhere."

PAC Launches Investigation into Durban 'Rampage'

MB1110143490 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1416 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 11 SAPA—The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] has launched its own investigation into the Durban beachfront stabbings earlier this week, following reports that the attackers were PaC t-shirts or badges.

PAC Secretary-General Benny Alexander said in a statement to SAPA on Thursday [11 Oct] that nine branches in the Durban and Pietermaritzburg areas would carry out the investigation and report "at their earliest convenience."

Mr. Alexander said problems have been encountered in the investigation, however, as only one suspect's name has been released, that of a Mr. Negobo of unknown address.

"If the media reports that Mr. Nogobo is mentally unstable are true, then he should be referred to a relevant institution for help.... At this time we do not know how some of these people got hold of PAC t-shirts if reports about this are to be believed. The PAC wishes to state clearly that its leaders did not give an instruction for this type of action and we do not give such instructions," Mr. Alexander stressed.

Police Probe Link

MB1110144490 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Police in Durban are investigating possible links between youths held after this week's beachfront stabbings and the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress]. Carmel Rickard reports:

[Begin Rickard recording] Police officials in Pretoria said they were investigating the Pan-Africanist Congress link because several of those held after the horror attack were wearing PAC badges. In addition, PAC membership cards were found on at least three of the youths.

Police said altogether eight people were being held in connection with the incident. One, believed to have been their leader, is seriously injured and in Addington Hospital. The other seven are aged between 15 and 24. They are now being held under the emergency regulations which allow indefinite detention.

Soon after the incident, PAC General Secretary Benny Alexander issued a firm denial that members of his organization had been involved. However, police told me: We are definitely looking at possible PAC involvement. [end recording]

ANC Proposes Tax on White Property Deals

MB1110104990 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 11 Oct № p 1

[Article by Linden Birns: "ANC Moots Tax on White Property Deals"]

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] has proposed a windfall profits tax on property deals in white suburbs to recompense people "dispossessed" of their land under apartheid legislation.

It has also suggested a punitive tax on underutilised property in low density residential areas.

p sposals and not hard-core policies" were read out by AN and commission member Bongiwe Njobe at a Bus ing Industry Federation of SA [South Africa] (BIFSA) housest assues workshop in Midrand on Tuesday [9 Oct].

The workshop was attended by representatives of government, the TPA [Transvaal Provincial Administration], the UDF [United Democratic Front], financial institutions, builders and allied companies, economists, academics and building union officials.

Njobe said the windfall tax would be levied on whites who made profits from selling property that had originally been occupied by blacks. She said this could be extended to all residential property deals involving whites, but did not give details.

Njobe said there had to be strategies to end the disparity between exclusive white suburbs and their poorer neighbouring black townships, to result in the establishment of democratic municipalities.

These should also include concentration on the better utilisation of property in white urban areas, Njobe said.

"There should be a tax on this property as it would provide an incentive for landowners to build cottages on their property which they could use for stimulating the rent market," Njobe said.

She also expressed the ANC's reservations about the continued availability of urban land on the free market.

"This would mean that people in outlying rural areas would still be unable to afford metropolitan urban served sites and would be forced to continue squatting and building shacks," Njobe said.

Township infrastructure and services desperately need to be upgraded and this should be done at the expense of whites who enjoyed the privilege of established infrastructures and services, she said.

DP Calls Proposal 'Racist'

MB1110171090 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1640 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 11 SAPA—The Democratic Party's [DP] spokesman on local government, Mr. Tony Leon, has criticised the African National Congress' [ANC] proposals for a windfall property tax in white surburbs as racist. Reacting to the announcement by Miss Bongiwe Njobe, a member of the ANC Land Commission, Mr. Leon said the proposals were misdirected and asked how they would affect blacks buying property in his constituency.

"If the ANC is serious about nonracialism and this windfall property tax, how are black persons—increasingly resident in so-called white suburbs—going to avoid this tax when they choose to sell their property at profit with in a few months," asked Mr. Leon.

He said it was wrong to visit the sins of previous generations of racist dispossessers of land on the current generations of home-owners. Contrary to popular mythology, the average white did not possess numerous sources of income and investment.

For most whites the residential home was the single most significant investment he possessed. "To threaten such an investment is simply to create insecurity, instability and a flight of skills and capital, at a time South Africa can least afford it." said Mr. Leon.

Lifting of East Rand Curfews Announced

MB1210073190 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0724 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 12 SAPA—Township curfews on the East Rand will be lifted on Friday [12 Oct] night, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok has announced. This ends all curfew action on the Witwatersrand.

The 9pm-4am curfew placed on all Reef townships on September 25 was lifted in greater Soweto last week. From Friday night the curfew will be lifted in the east Rand townships of Vosloorus, Katlehong and Thokoza.

Mr. Vlok said violence had dropped dramatically in these areas and it was no longer necessary to continue the curfew. However, should the situation warrant it he would not hesitate to reimpose this measure. He said many township residents had asked that the curfew be continued but this was not possible as a curfew was always seen as a temporary measure.

Angola

Reported Preparations To Attack Zaire Denied

MB1210063890 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] The Information Ministry yesterday categorically denied an AZAP [Zairian Press Agency] report whereby large-scale recruitment was underway in the Angolan territory with a view to mounting an armed aggression against the neighboring Republic of Zaire. The Information Ministry says the report is a mere disinformation maneuver designed to make one forget the role that Zaire has been playing in UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] renewed activities, and to create favorable psychological conditions for a direct involvement of Zairian troops in northern and northwestern Angola.

The ministry added: No one ignores the facilities that Zaire has been giving in the traffic of U.S. weapons for UNITA gangs, and the permission given for the establishment of bases on the border in order to infiltrate personnel and war equipment. Moreover, one should not forget that airplanes and helicopters flying from Kamina base have regularly violated the Angolan airspace in support of the rebels.

The Information Ministry cited as recent examples the two South African vessels which unloaded weapons at a Zairian port, and the crash in the Angolan territory of an aircraft flying from Zaire with U.S. nationals and UNITA members on board.

Van Dunem Addresses UN General Assembly 10 Oct

MB1110091490 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loy told the 45th UN General Assembly session in New York yesterday that the easing of international relations has resulted in important steps being taken to resolve several issues worrying the international community. He said this has been due to efforts to end the cold war and replace it with dialogue.

[Begin Loy recording] In addition to those historic events, there are other events of great significance to Africa and the world. The release of Dr. Nelson Mandela, coupled with the unbanning of antiapartheid political organizations as well as the ongoing changes in South Africa to end racial discrimination, are signs of a new atmosphere and hope for a better future.

Yet, there are still signs of destabilization in southern Africa. We are referring to violence in South Africa, which is backed and encouraged by the police, and the conflicts in Angola and Mozambique. In these countries, efforts to achieve peace are being thwarted by foreign interference, the raison d'etre of which is the [words indistinct] in the policy of confrontation between blocs.

In the case of Angola, the holding of the Gbadolite summit a year ago raised hopes of peace, but these vanished quickly because the United States and conservative circles in South Africa insisted on aiding UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

The Angolan Government has time and again reiterated its commitment to peace through dialogue, with a view to establishing national unity and reconciliation among all Angolans. Accordingly, concessions have already been made in Gbadolite and other venues. The same cannot be said of UNITA, which, in addition to having deliberately violated and unilaterally renounced the Gbadolite accords, has stepped its war campaign, particularly against socioeconomic infrastructures, as well as the abduction and murder of defenseless civilians.

Nevertheless, the Angolan Government remained committed to peace and decided to hold direct talks with UNITA. Despite this flexibility, continued foreign interference and UNITA's stance on the Angolan Government's peace proposals have created obstacles which have prevented the four rounds of direct talks, held under the good auspices of the Portuguese Government, from achieving the intended results. [end recording]

Botswana

Consciousness Group Members Fail To Appear

MB1110154090 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] The eight members of the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania who were arrested in Botswana at the weekend, failed to appear in court today. A Botswana police spokesman said that no information could be divulged before an investigation of the matter had been completed.

Earlier, the police announced that the members had been arrested after the discovery of a training camp of the movement 75 kilometers south of the capital of Gaborone. A spokesman for the movement, Mr. Gilbert Mokwena, told our political staff in Johannesburg that no information about the arrests had been received so far. He claimed that two members of the movement, who were to have conveyed information, had disappeared.

Zimbabwe

Commision Asks U.S. To Halt Aid to UNITA

MB1110155490 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1512 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Harare Oct 11 SAPA—The Zambia/Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security on Thursday [11 Oct] expressed concern over internal and external negative forces that continue undermining development and unity in the two countries.

A communique issued at the end of a two-day meeting of the commission here said the commission called on the United States and other international forces that continue to give support to the rebel UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement in Angola and MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] in Mozambique to refrain from rendering such support, as it undermined current peace efforts, ZIANA reports.

The commission also called on the international community to maintain sanctions against South Africa until apartheid is dismantled and condemned the perpetrators of recent violence in South Africa.

"Whilst the commission welcomed the recent positive political developments in South Africa aimed at negotiating a political settlement acceptable to all the people of that country, it however registered its reservation on the full commitment of the South African Government to the realisation of a genuine democratic society," the communique said.

The communique said the commission welcomed efforts in both Angola and Mozambique aimed at ending the strife in both countries through dialogue.

The commission discussed various issues of mutual interest and concern to both countries. The continuing excellent relations between the two countries were noted and it was resolved that the commission would work to increase cooperation in the field of wildlife protection.

Parliamentarian Warns Against Regionalism

MB1110094090 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2230 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Esigodini, Zimbabwe Oct 10 SAPA—Makokoba MP [Member of Parliament] Sidney Malunga on Wednesday [10 Oct] warned Zimbabweans to guard against regionalism, which he said would destroy the unity that now prevailed in Zimbabwe. He was addressing a three-day Matabeleland North provincial development committee workshop on the role of the politician in development.

ZIANA news agency quoted him as claiming there were numerous regional cliques sprouting throughout the country whose negative impact would be destructive unless the government curb it.

"There is a tendency by some politicians to belong to clandestine regional cliques whose objectives are to selfishly and unilaterally develop their own regions in order to maintain supremacy over other regions," he charged.

Regionalism, he said, was also evident in recruitment, employment and promotion in both the public and private sectors. He particularly singled ou: the pre-unity era which he said had disadvantaged capable persons from the Matabeleland region by virtue of their previous political affiliation.

"Now that we are united there is need for government to redress the situation if the people are to be satisfied and feel part of the political process currently in progress," he said.

On the role of the politician in development, he said the politician had to undertake extensive consultations with technocrats during the planning and implementation stages. He said the exclusion of the politician in development activities in their constituencies was often a recipe for conflict and questioned why MP's were excluded from development committees.

Australian Firm Announces Investment in Mining

MB1110100190 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2233 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Harare Oct 10 SAPA—The Australian-owned Chegutu mining project near Harare on Wednesday [10 Oct] received a major shot in the arm with the announcement of a zd [zimbabwe dollar]450000 investment for the mining of platinum.

Zimbabwe's ZIANA news agency reports the project is owned by the Australian company Delta Gold which has formed a joint venture with Australian giant Broken Hill Pty (BHP) to conduct tests for platinum mining. Sydney-based Delta Gold bought the project days before the October 1987 share market crash.

Chief executive of Delta Gold's local subsidiary, Hartley Platinum, Mr Gordon Freeman, has alleged Zimbabwe could "take over a great deal" of South Africa's platinum trade.

BHP Utah International Inc of San Francisco will manage the venture and will earn 67 per cent of the deposit by completing further studies to confirm details of reserves.

Delta Executive Director Richard Menell said BHP's involvement in Chegutu would afford the project extra credibility and the solid financial backing needed for development. "Delta introduced a major partner to put in the capital and exploration to drive the project forward," he said. "If it works, we have a world class mining company," he added.

BHP has to decide within 30 months whether to go ahead with the mine. "We could be in production by the mid-1990s," said Mr Menell.

Delta previously announced mineable ore reserves of 37 million tonnes within measured and indicated resources of 60 million tonnes. Apart from platinum and gold, the mine also has significant nickel and copper reserves.

However, Mr Menell said the figures, which indicated reserves of about eight million ounces of gold, were based on studies by the previous owner Union Carbide, done about 20 years ago and were very conservative. Delta and BHP were negotiating with the Zimbabwe Government for permission to develop an underground mine.

Ivory Coast

'Puzzling' Wave of Arrests Linked to Coup Plot AB1110181590 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 11 Oct 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Meanwhile, there have been reports of a rather puzzling wave of arrests in the Ivory Coast capital, Abidjan, yesterday. More than 30 people were apparently picked up and many of them were Liberians, some of them from the embassy which is still staffed by officials of the late Samuel Doe's regime in Liberia. It is all very sensitive as the Ivory Coast Government has frequently been accused of giving backing to Charles Taylor's rebels in Liberia. And the arrests, mostly of people from Doe's Krahn tribe, come at a time when there has been much talk of coup plots in Ivory Coast. On the line to Abidjan, Robin White asked Elizabeth Blunt if the arrests had continued today.

[Begin recording] [Blunt] Yes, there have been more arrests this morning and it is still going on as far as I can tell. Some of the people who were picked up routinely have been released. Most of the women have been released and the younger children and some of the more important details like the first secretary of the Liberian Embassy, Alex Togba, and an Ivorian police commissioner, who was picked up, they were allowed to go home over night but were told to come back in the morning for questioning. So, they are there again today being questioned.

[White] Have you any idea what all this is about?

[Blunt] Well, it is extremely mysterious. It coincides with stories about the discovery of a cache of what I was told was sophisticated weapons in a house in a suburb called Marcory in Abidjan and some of the arrests of Liberians did, in fact, take place in Marcory and it seems that they may be associated. But the people who have been arrested told various stories. One that has just been released, one woman rang me and she said they had not really questioned her but they have taken away two photograph albums from her house and she could not understand that at all. She said that as far as she knew they were just family photographs. And one person who was arrested and later released said that he was questioned about a plot against the government of the Ivory Coast and, in fact, there are Ivorians being picked up along with the Liberians, but they are Ivorians from the same tribe, that is the Krahn or Guere, that is Samuel Doe's tribe from that border area.

[White] So, this has nothing to do with Liberia, it is to do with the Ivory Coast?

[Blunt] It could very well be about both, because I think what you must understand is that what has been going in Liberia has obviously affected and upset and concerned people of the same tribal group living on the Ivorian side of the border. And in particular, people from the Krahn,

the Guere tribe, have been quite upset. But it seems that their government has been backing the rebels and they have seen arms going across to kill their own people on the other side of the border. So it is possible that there would be disaffection among this group, even among the Ivorian Krahns.

[White] So, you are saying that Krahns from Liberia and Krahns from the Ivory Coast might be suspected of mounting a coup plot against Houphouet-Boigny?

[Blunt] They might be suspected of it, yes. [end recording]

Assembly Approves Presidential Election Laws

AB1110174390 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The National Assembly has just voted in an emergency proceeding the amendment of the law regulating the election of the Republic's president. A presidential candidate must pay 20 million CFA francs, which is reimbursable if the candidate obtains at least 10 percent of the votes. The provisions concerning the voting of non-Ivorians of African origin are maintained as in the past.

The amendment proposed by the government was presented this afternoon to the members of parliament by Interior Minister Mr. Leon Konan Koffi, who, in his speech on the motives for the amendment, said that this amendment has become necessary as a result of the new political situation that has been created by the effectual opening up to a multiparty system. [passage omitted]

Here is the content of the law adopted by the National Assembly and promulgated by the Republic's president:

Article 1: Articles 2 and 25 of the Law of 12 October 1985 have been amended as follows:

The new Article 2: The Statement of Candidacy must indicate the surname, first names, affiliation, date and place of birth, domicile, and profession of the candidate, as well as the color of the symbols chosen for the voters cards. If the candidate has only temporarily acknowledged his candidacy, he must also present a signed acknowledgement. Such declaration is replaced by a definitive receipt after verification of eligibility by the Supreme Court and after the payment to the Treasury Office of a 20 million CFA deposit which must be paid before the list of candidates is published. It will be returned to any candidate who obtains at least 10 percent of the votes cast. Otherwise, it remains forfeited to the state.

The New Article 25 for the 1990 elections: Non-Ivorians of African origin who are regularly enrolled on the voters registers can vote.

Article 2: The above will be executed as state law in accordance with the emergency proceedings and published in the Government White Paper of Ivory Coast.

Issued in Abidian on 10 October 1990

Signed: Felix Houphouet-Boigny

Liberia

Gunieans' Departure Denied; FRG Embassy Shelled AB1210113490 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Freetown, Oct 12 (AFP)—The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is to send a consignment of 2,300 tons of rice in the next two days for thousands of people trapped in the war-torn Liberian capital of Monrovia, a WFP official said. Bai Bojang told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE late Thursday [11 Oct] that 168,000 tons of rice had already been shipped to Monrovia and were waiting to be distributed at centers around the capital where 89,000 people have registered. He said a Greek vessel, the Triana, is to carry the rice in two trips between Freetown and Monrovia under the supervision of officials from the humanitarian group, Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF-Doctors Without Borders). A local nongovernmental organization, the Special Emergency Life Food (SELF), was also to help members of a West African expeditionary force (ECOMOG) distributed the food.

Meanwhile, ECOMOG military sources in Freetown have refuted allegations made by National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel leader Charles Taylor on Wednesday that Guinea had withdrawn troops from ECOMOG, which also comprises troops from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. Western diplomats here said the vacant German Embassy in Monrovia's eastern district had been shelled by forces loyal to the late President Samuel Doe. The embassy was evacuated in August. It was not known if anyone was injured in the attack.

A battalion of Nigerian and Ghanaian troops was expected to arrive here by Friday and is to leave by sea for Monrovia next week. The arrival of troop reinforcements would boost the multinational force to over 7,000.

AFP Reports on Famine Threat in Monrovia AB1110230090 Paris AFP in English 1950 GMT 11 Oct 90

[By James Dorbor]

[Text] Monrovia, Oct 11 (AFP)—Famine is a serious threat to thousands of residents of central Monrovia who have found themselves cut off from the rest of Liberia since last July in a bloody civil war now in its tenth month. Those most affected are children, who are suffering from malnutrition, the Liberian correspondent of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reported Thursday.

Many of the youngsters are said to have lost parents killed either by troops loyal to the late President Samuel Doe or by rebel forces. Mr. Doe was captured and put to death by rebels a month ago. The children sit alongside sidewalks, begging for food or money near the embassies of the United States, Britain, Italy and France in Mamba Point. They look sick, dirty and skeletal, with flies hovering around them. As people pass by they give the children what they can afford, but not enough for them to get a daily meal. A normal meal for one person here now costs about thirty dollars, which an ordinary person cannot afford. "We want to help but we ourselves do not have enough to eat," several adults told AFP. "We lived on tea for weeks."

People have also survived by eating mayonnaise with popcorn or greens, or simply licking powdered milk. This correspondent was forced to shelter on July 2, moving from home to home and unable to communicate as the rebels moved into the capital.

A half kilo (about a pound) of ice, which sold last June for 50 cents, now costs some 20 dollars, while the price of a 50-kilo bag has rocketed from 25 to 600 dollars. Rice, Liberia's staple, is now referred to here as "gold dust" because of its scarcity. In other parts of the city, still controlled by Prince Johnson's breakaway rebels from the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and renegade soldiers from the Doe army, children are said to be dying daily of starvation.

Food at the freeport [as received] of Monrovia, where a West African peace-keeping force (ECOMOG) has established its headquarters, had almost completely run out on Thursday. The only hope for residents of Monrovia appeared to be an emergency food supply operation by the United States Embassy here. Registration for the distribution of emergency food was completed last week, but it was not known Thursday when the operation would begin.

On Wednesday, a lorry from the five-nation ECOMOG force sent in by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) drove through Monrovia's main streets giving a loudspeaker announcement to assure residents that they would soon begin to receive food.

The acute famine risk is compounded by a lack of safe drinking water. The dry season is expected to begin in some three weeks and children are already suffering from diarrhea after drinking untreated well water. Water supplies to Monrovia and its suburbs were cut off last June 27 when rebels of Charles Taylor's NPFL attacked and took over the capital's water plant in White Plains, a strategic site some 25 miles (40 kilometres) north of here.

An AFP special correspondent reported Thursday that the NPFL had lost White Plains to Prince Johnson's men, citing well-informed military sources. In an offensive, ECOMOG troops meanwhile took control of James Spriggs Payne airport from Mr. Taylor's men. ECOMOG forces were seeking to "clean up" a large zone ridding the airport of the risk of rebel artillery fire, the sources said.

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